

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01702 291213Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7323
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1702

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR MARR UNSC IS LE XF
SUBJ: UNIFIL GOES ON

REF: JERUSALEM 894

1. ALTHOUGH ERSKINE AND JONAH SAW KHOURY YESTERDAY, THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT SEE BOUTROS.

2. SIILASVUO'S COMMENTS IN PARA. 8 OF REFTEL POINT UP NEED FOR COORDINATION WITH LEBANESE. WHILE HE SEEMS BE THINKING IN TERMS PLACING LEBANESE TROOPS ALONG LITANI, KHOURY WAS PLANNING, AT LEAST UNTIL HE MET ERSKINE ON AFTERNOON OF 28TH, TO PUT THEM ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER AND WAS MOVING AHEAD WITH DETAILED PLANS TO THAT EFFECT. DATT WILL BE GETTING CURRENT READING LATER TODAY, BUT WE HAVE IMPRESSION THERE IS COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM.

2. I HAVE SPOKEN TO BOUTROS ON TELEPHONE THIS MORNING AND,
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WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, TOLD HIM THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY CONFUSION BETWEEN PLANS OF UNIFIL AND LEBANESE AND SOMETHING NEEDED BE DONE ABOUT COORDINATION. HE HAS POSTPONED OUR MEETING UNTIL TOMORROW AND AT THAT TIME WILL TRY TO GET HIM TO COME TO GRIPS WITH DETAILS.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, WE DOUBT LEBANESE WILL BE ENTHUSIASTIC

ABOUT IDEA OF OCCUPYING LITANI AREA AT THIS POINT.
THEY ARE GOING TO WANT UNIFIL BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND
PALESTINIANS. IMAGINE SIILASVUO IN TURN WILL ASK HOW
LEBANESE CAN MOVE INTO SOUTH WHEN UNIFIL HAS NOT YET REPLACED
ISRAELIS THERE. GOOD QUESTION. HOPE HE WILL DISCUSS IT
WITH BOUTROS AND KHOURY.

4. WHILE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT DOES SEEM BE PROCEEDING APACE,
WISH TO POINT OUT THAT SIILASVUO'S COMMENT IN PARA. 7 REFTTEL
MAY BE UNINTENTIONALLY MISLEADING WITH REGARD SITUATION AT
TYRE. FRENCH ARE SOUTH-EAST OF QASMIYAH BRIDGE, NOT RPT NOT
BETWEEN IT AND TYRE. THAT IS, THEY DO NOT RPT NOT CONTROL
TRAFFIC ALONG THE ROAD LEADING SOUTH FROM BRIDGE. PALESTINIANS,
IRAQIS, ETC., REPORTEDLY MOVING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS BRIDGE
AND INTO AND OUT OF TYRE WITHOUT HINDRANCE.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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